



Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine

The **Northwest Center for Public Health Practice** at the University of Washington coordinates the School of Public Health and Community Medicine's outreach activities and partners with state and local agencies in 6 states (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming) and the Portland Area Indian Health Board to strengthen regional public health workforce development. The Center is one of fourteen HRSA Public Health Training Centers and one of twenty-two CDC/ASPH Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness across the nation.

The Center's activities focus on public health workforce development and practice-based research and involve each of the six Northwestern states.

The Center's activities follow these operating premises:

- **Provide a continuum of teaching/learning opportunities** from frontline workforce training to formal education resulting in an MPH or similar degree
- **Focus on the priorities, strengths and direction of the partners**
- **Products will be shared** among partners
 - a “public domain” approach
- Activities include **efforts to promote life-long learning and facilitate ongoing communication and resource sharing** among partners

Key Center activities include **technical assistance** to state and local health departments, support and facilitation of **workforce development** activities in the states, support and direction in the development of a **NW Public Health Leadership Institute**, and a major **focus on Public Health Preparedness, as well as liaison** with national public health efforts

The Northwest Regional Public Health Workforce Development Network

In 2000, the Center established the Regional Workforce Development Network to foster partnerships and strategic approaches to workforce development and public health improvement. Organizationally, the Network is an open collaborative of local, state, and tribal public health agencies and professionals, as well as AHECs and academic institutions throughout the Northwest. A Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from each of the six states, provides guidance to the Center on the Network's activities and priorities. A representative from the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board was recently added to the Steering Committee. In addition, the Center now provides travel funds to allow Focus Area G leads from each state to participate on the Steering Committee.

The Network focuses on the priorities, strengths and directions of its state and Native American/Alaskan Indian health agency partners to identify opportunities for resource sharing and collaborative regional planning. Recent Network activities include:

- Curriculum development
- Needs Assessment development and implementation
- Information and resource sharing about Training Plan development

Roles for PHIP Workforce Development Committee

- Participation in NWC Listserv
- Invitations to Regional Network Steering Committee Meetings
- Mailings for other Updates
- Opportunity at Workforce Development Committee meetings to advise on curriculum development or other products needed by the public health workforce in the Northwest



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